

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A catalyst for purification of exhaust gas comprising:  
a carrier, and  
a catalyst layer containing an alkali metal and/or an alkaline earth metal, the catalyst layer being loaded on the carrier,  
in which catalyst said carrier the carrier-composing material contains Si in an amount of 0.5 to 10.0% by weight as expressed as an oxide.

2. (Currently amended) A catalyst for purification of exhaust gas according to Claim 1, wherein said carrier the carrier-composing material contains Si in an amount of 1.0 to 6.0% by weight as expressed as an oxide.

3. (Original) A catalyst for purification of exhaust gas according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier has a thermal expansion coefficient of  $6.0 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$  or less.

Serial No. 09/845,317

4. (Currently amended) A catalyst for purification of exhaust gas according to Claim 1, wherein said carrier the carrier-composing material is aluminum titanate.

5. (Currently amended) A catalyst for purification of exhaust gas according to Claim 4, wherein said carrier the carrier-composing material further contains Mg and/or Fe.

6. (Original) A catalyst for purification of exhaust gas according to Claim 1, wherein the catalyst layer contains K.

7. (Original) A catalyst for purification of exhaust gas according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier is a honeycomb carrier.

8. (Currently Amended) A catalyst for purification of exhaust gas according to Claim 1, wherein the catalyst layer contains at least one kind of noble metal selected form from Pt, Pd and Rh.